

I am writing to you because of a recent decision by Sinclair Broadcast Group to air a program titled "Stolen Honor" two weeks before the national election. This so-called "documentary" has been put together by the discredited group of people who call themselves the "Swift Boat Veterans for Truth." The Swift Boat people have created ads vilifying John Kerry, ads containing absolutely false information, and there is no doubt that the upcoming film will be more of the same character assassinations that appeared in earlier Swift boat commercials. By calling this new programming "news", Sinclair is attempting to make a massive political contribution that circumvents FEC regulation. More importantly, Sinclair's decision to force TV stations to air such biased propaganda on network television during prime time does a disservice to shared holders, advertisers, viewers, and our democratic process. The owners of Sinclair refuse to see how their actions are wrong. They would certainly understand the inappropriateness of someone preempting prime time programming in 25% of all households with Michael Moore's Fahrenheit 9/11 just before this

election.

Sinclair  
Broadcasting's  
decision to force  
their stations to  
air an anti-Kerry  
documentary days  
before the election  
is a clear example  
of the dangers of  
media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the  
public airwaves free  
of charge, and is  
obligated by law to  
serve the public  
interest. But when  
large companies  
control the  
airwaves, we get  
more of what's good  
for the bottom line  
and less of what we  
need for our  
democracy. Instead  
of something  
produced at "News  
Central" far away,  
it's more important  
that we see real  
people from our own  
communities and more  
substantive news  
about issues that  
matter.

Sinclair's actions  
show why we need to  
strengthen media  
ownership rules, not  
weaken them. They  
show why the license  
renewal process  
needs to involve  
more than a returned  
postcard. Thank you.